Casualties due to overdose of Vitamin-A in Nagaon District

1428. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the casualties due to overdose of Vitamin-A in Nagaon district of Assam on 12th November, 2001 during administration of UNICEF sponsored vaccine as well as food poisoning cases due to intake of pulses in various parts of Assam during the last six months; and

(b) the lives lost and suffered, causes detected and responsibilities fixed for such incidents alongwith date and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the State Government of Assam after the recent Vitamin A campaign 689 children were treated for minor illnesses without hospitalization; 41 were hospitalized and released after recovery; and 5 children are redported to have died in Nagaon district. Four out of the five children who died did not receive Vitamin A. The remaining child was suffering from fever for one week prior to death.

After consuming soaked gram on 10th August 2001 after a peace rally held the day earlier, 1819 children suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting in Barpeta district. Of these two died. 230 students and 44 members of the staff suffered from food poisoning in Assam Valley School in Sonitpur district on 7.9.2001. 470 people attending the Flag Hoisting ceremony at Banbari Mini Stadium in Nalbari district on 15th August 2001 suffered food poisoning on 16th August 2001. One death is reported. 60 cases of food poisoning were reported from village Niz-Sipajhar in Darrang district after consuming Prasad of 'Matimah' on 17.9.2001. Kamrup district reported 11 cases of food poisoning from Rangia. In the same district 17 students of Kachari Basti School, Guwahati suffered food poisoning on 5.9.2001.

The State Government has collected samples of pulses and water from the affected districts. Some samples of pulses were found to contain organophosphorus and some samples of water were found to be contaminated with coliform organisms. Free medical treatment was provided to the affected people. Bakeries have been instructed to sell fresh and quality products only. The district authorities stopped sale of moog, gram etc., People were advised not to consume grams, moogs and their products by circulating leaflets, through newspapers and other media.